

COAST GUARD GROUP MOBILE – MISSISSIPPI SOUND TO APALACHEE BAY

JANUARY 13, 2003

This short newsletter is intended to provide information on Coast Guard activities in the Group Mobile operating area, which extends from the middle of Mississippi Sound to Apalachee Bay, and includes our Multi-Mission Stations in Pascagoula, Mobile, Pensacola, Destin and Panama City, as well as numerous cutters and various Aids to Navigation Teams. Also in the Mobile area are the Coast Guard's Aviation Training Center, which trains all Coast Guard Aviators, the Gulf Strike Team and the Marine Safety Office, which provides important safety and regulatory enforcement and expertise to the shipping industry in this vital region.

SEARCH AND RESCUE:

Jan 1: Coast Guard Station Destin received a call reporting that the M/V SPECIAL T was disoriented in deep fog outside Destin Pass. The SPECIAL T reported that they had no working compass or Global Positioning System. Because of the vessel's position near the rocks of the west jetty, the Coast Guard advised the vessel to drop anchor and wait for the 47' Motor Life Boat to arrive. The Coast Guard crewmembers arrived on-scene to assist the SPECIAL T in navigating through the fog to safe moorings. After escorting the vessel East Pass Towers, Station Destin's Boarding Team conducted a routine boarding.

Jan 9: Coast Guard Station Panama City received a report via VHF marine-band Channel 16 that the S/V TOUCH OF CLASS was taking on water over the bow and disoriented in the weather. Station Panama City launched a 41' Utility Boat to respond to the call for assistance. Coast Guard Group Mobile launched a Falcon aircraft to locate the vessel and establish communications. The Falcon located the vessel and passed the position to the 41' Utility Boat. The Coast Guard crew arrived on-scene and determined that they would be able to escort the TOUCH OF CLASS to Port St. Joe Marina. The vessel was escorted safely to the marina.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:



Jan 10: Coast Guard Station Panama City had its 41' Utility Boat underway for a routine patrol when the crew observed the F/V MISS TAKE entering St. Andrew Bay. The Boarding Officer made the decision to conduct a vessel safety boarding on the MISS TAKE. Boarding team members gathered identification from the crew of the MISS TAKE to run checks with Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. After hearing that one crewman had two warrants that were labeled "Armed and Dangerous" the Boarding Officer called in the 87' Cutter COHO for support. After a boarding team from the COHO arrived, the man was detained for transport to Panama City Police Department. The MISS TAKE was escorted into St. Andrew

Marina and the boarding was completed. The boarding team found no safety violations but did find several undersized fish in the vessel's catch. The Boarding Team transferred the man to the police and cited the Captain for the undersized fish.